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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1953

ROGER & RENWICK,
PRINTERS, WIGAN.

STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor W. N. TABERNER, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor J. FINNEY

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

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Councillor B. BOULT	Councillor W. MAKINSON
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Councillor W. E. GREGSON	Councillor P. REID
Councillor C. C. HYATT	Councillor R. F. REYNOLDS

The Health, Sanitation and Housing Committee, consisting of all the Members of the Council, is the Committee having charge of matters of public health within the Urban District.

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH, SANITATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Councillor W. N. TABERNER

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH, SANITATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Councillor E. GARNER

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL :

D. CHISHOLM, Esq.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER :

B. L. PARKER, A.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council

July, 1954

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report upon the health of Standish for the year 1953.

As in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the Urban District. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. B. L. Parker and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Preliminary Census, 1951)	8,991
Registrar-General's estimated mid-year (1953) home population	8,876
Acreage of District	3,266
Number of inhabited houses (End of 1953 according to rate book)	2,720
Rateable Value	£48,480
Product of Penny Rate (Actual)	£194/15/8

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District is pleasantly situated North of the County Borough of Wigan and adjoining it.

The Rural District of Wigan lies to the East and West and the Rural District of Chorley to the North.

The maximum distance between the boundaries is about 5 miles and the height of the district above sea level varies from 88-375 feet.

The geological formation is of black loamy soil having generally a sandy sub-soil and in the Eastern parts there are considerable strata of hard rock. The district is rich in coal seams at varying depths.

The district is typically urban in character and its chief industries are Coal Mining, Agriculture, Food Canning, Brewing Beer and the Manufacture of Textiles.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

		<i>Live Births—number registered</i>			
		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	.....	52	...	46	... 98
Illegitimate	.....	2	...	Nil	... 2

The live birth-rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are :—

Crude Rate	11.3
Adjusted Rate	11.0 (15.5)
Comparability factor	0.98

		<i>Stillbirths—number registered</i>				
		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	Nil	...	I	...	I
Illegitimate	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 10 (22.4).

DEATHS.

<i>Deaths (all causes)—number registered</i>		
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
59	57	116

The mortality rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are :—

Total (all causes) :	Crude Rate	13.1	
	Adjusted Rate	13.8	(11.4)
	Comparability factor	1.06	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	Nil		
Malignant Neoplasms (cancer)	1.58		

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births is nil.

Infant Mortality (deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

	<i>Number registered</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	Nil	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 30 (26.8).

Neo-Natal Mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age).

	<i>Number registered</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	2	Nil	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 20.

CANCER : Fourteen deaths occurred in 1953 — 6 males and 8 females—compared with 19 deaths—8 males and 11 females in 1952.

Figures in parenthesis are corresponding figures for England and Wales

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:—	M.		F.
Malignant neoplasm (stomach)	2	...	—
Malignant neoplasm (lung-bronchus)	1	...	—
Malignant neoplasm (breast)	1	...	2
Malignant neoplasm (uterus)	—	...	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	2	...	4
Leukaemia — aleukaemia	—	...	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	...	8
Coronary disease — angina	7	...	4
Hypertension with heart disease	1	...	1
Other heart disease	12	...	16
Other circulatory disease	1	...	3
Influenza	2	...	1
Pneumonia	—	...	1
Bronchitis	6	...	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	...	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	...	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	...	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	...	—
Congenital malformations	1	...	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	...	3
All other accidents	2	...	2
Suicide	2	...	—
Total (all causes) ...	59	...	57

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The following information is supplied in accordance with the request contained in Ministry of Health Circular 1/54.

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Qualifications and Special Diplomas</i>	<i>Whole or Part- time</i>	<i>Other App'ntm'ts with Local Authority (if any)</i>
Medical Officer of Health	George Harold Potter	Bachelor of Medicine. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians. Diploma in Public Health.	Part- time	
Sanitary Inspector	Bernard Littlewood Parker	Sanitary Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods Inspector. Certificate S.I.A. Meat and Other Foods Inspector (Honours). Diploma in Public Health and Hygiene (Honours). Smoke Inspectors Certificate (Liverpool University). National Certificate in Building.	Whole- time	Public Cleansing Officer

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens are sent to the Group Laboratory of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee at the Wigan Royal Infirmary for examination. Use is also made of the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Manchester and Liverpool.

These arrangements have proved quite satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. At the present time the Ambulance Service for Standish is provided by Wigan County Borough Council under an agency agreement with the Lancashire County Council. The service is quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One hundred and forty-four cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to the Department during the year compared with 39 cases during 1952.

Perusal of the accompanying table will shew the incidence of the various diseases and the age groups affected.

There was an epidemic of 112 cases of Measles during the first quarter of the year occurring in children of 9 years and under. There were few cases of other diseases.

Food Poisoning. — There were two cases of suspected food poisoning notified during the year. These occurred during the month of June and were traceable to the extensive outbreak of food poisoning which happened in the Preston and Fylde area of Lancashire at that time.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Particulars of the numbers of pre-school and school-children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation during the year are:—

Pre-school children : 77. School children : 27.

In addition 202 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS — YEARS										65 and over	age unknown	Total Deaths	Hospital admissions	deaths
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45							
Scarlet Fever	19	—	—	2	14	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Measles (excl. Rubella) 112	2	22	35	51	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	10	1	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary & influenzal) 1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	144	3	24	44	66	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The following notifications were received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953

		New Cases					Deaths			
Age Periods		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	I	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
I	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
2	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
5	...	I	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
20	...	—	I	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
25	...	—	I	I	—	...	—	—	—	—
35	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
45	...	I	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
55	...	I	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
65	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards		—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Totals		3	3	I	—	...	—	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under these Acts in respect of the Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Council have their own plant (Bell's Mechanical Filters) situated at Green Lane for filtering and chlorinating the water supply.

The water for domestic and trade purposes comes from the reservoir at Anglezarke and is purchased from Liverpool Corporation. A special industrial supply comes from Thirlmere and is purchased from Manchester Corporation.

Before distribution in the district the domestic water supply receives the following treatment:—

Addition of chemicals: Alumina—1 gr. per gallon.

Soda Ash—1 gr. per gallon.

Filtration and chlorination.

The special industrial supply is distributed without treatment. Both domestic and industrial supplies are constant.

The water is of good soft Upland Surface Water in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses.

Water Sampling : The following samples were taken during the year and reports thereon are tabulated below :—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :—

	UNTREATED WATER					FULLY TREATED WATER			
	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Apl.</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Oct.</i>		<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Apl.</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Oct.</i>
Bacteria per ml. at 37 deg. C.	2	4	27	9	...	Nil	Nil	4	Nil
B. Coli per 100 ml.	1	Nil	50	8	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Coliform Organisms per 100 ml.	1	Nil	50	13	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class	2	1	4	4	...	1	1	1	1

Class 1 : Highly Satisfactory. *Class 2* : Satisfactory. *Class 3* : Suspicious.
Class 4 : Unsatisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES (Results — Parts/Million) FULLY TREATED WATER.

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Apl.</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Oct.</i>
Total Solid Matter in solution	99.2	85.6	84.0	80.8
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.69	0.27	0.08	0.42
Oxygen required to oxidise in 4 hours...	1.33	0.52	0.20	0.72
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05
Nitrous Nitrogen as N.	None	None	None	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.....	Minute trace	None	None	None
Combined Chlorine	18.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Total hardness	47	40	42	42
pH value	8.5	7.5	7.2	7.5

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water, free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker, Sanitary Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer, has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers' Shops	37	Re : Dustbins	201
Bakehouses	7	Pigsties	3
Fish and Chip Shops	5	H.A. Inspections	69
Ice-Cream Vendors	12	Re : Overcrowding	14
Cafes and Canteens	9	Re : Housing Applications	20
Public Houses	12	Moveable Dwellings	11
Other Food Premises	147	I.D. Inquiries	27
Milk Distributors	40	Verminous Premises	1
Hawkers	23	Interviews with Owners, etc. ...	159
Factories (Mech.)	27	Re-inspections of Notices	161
Factories (Non-Mech.)	5	Rodent Control	117
P.H.A. Workplaces	8	Public Halls and Cinemas	2
Shops under Shops Act	297	Atmospheric Pollution	5
Investigation of Complaints	30	Water Supplies	13
Inspections and Tests Drainage ...	197	Scrap Metal Dealers	3
School Sanitary Accommodation	6	Hairdressing Establishments	3
Septic Tanks and Cesspools	7	Welfare—Problem Families	7
Conservancy Closets	6	Rag and Bone Gatherers	1
Supervision over Refuse Collec- tion and Disposal	162	Various Causes	75

Total number of inspections : 1,929

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered</i>	<i>No. abated</i>
Defective refuse receptacles	213	213
Defective windows	60	56
Defective or obstructed drainage systems	57	57
Defective eavesgutters or rainwater pipes	31	28
Defective or flooded approach paths and yards	30	30
Damp, defective and perished wall plaster	25	23
Defective roofs	23	21
Defective chimney stacks and flues	17	14
Defective brickwork (external walls)	16	15
Defective floors	12	10
Defective doors and frames	11	10
Obstructed eavesgutters or rainwater pipes ...	11	5
Defective water closet appliances	7	7
Defective firegrates	7	6
Offensive odours or accumulations	6	6
Defective or inadequate sink waste pipes	5	5
Defective or insanitary sinks	4	4
Defective ceilings	3	3
Defective washing boilers	3	3
Defective domestic hot water systems	3	3
Defective water closet structures	2	2

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered</i> <i>No. abated</i>	
Defective pail closet receptacles	2	2
Defective outbuildings	2	2
Obstructed private sewage disposal plant	1	1
Overflowing or leaking cesspools	1	1
Dangerous boundary walls	1	1
Defective wash-house structures	1	1
Defective cold water service pipes	1	1
Defective hand rail to stairs	1	1
Obstructed watercourses	1	1
Verminous Premises	1	1

Defects or Nuisances : No. discovered, 558; No abated, 533.

No. of Notices Served : Informal 69; Statutory, 1.

Legal Proceedings : Nil.

It will be observed from the foregoing statistics that a continuous inspection of the district is maintained in an endeavour to improve the sanitary circumstances and safeguard the public health.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Except for the following all premises in the district have water closets :—

Privy Middens	10 (mostly on farms)
Pail Closets (including chemical closets)	57
	(including 21 houses at Gidlow).
Waste Water Closets	2

During the year four pail closets were converted to water closets.

At the end of the year a scheme for sewerage the 21 houses at Gidlow into Wigan Corporation's sewerage system was proceeding in order to make possible the conversion of the 21 pail closets to water closets.

Not many of the remaining conservancy closets can be converted to the water carriage system owing to the absence of drainage facilities and the present-day cost of installing small individual sewage disposal plant being prohibitive.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i) By the local authority	6	20
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	4	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 134
- (b) Number of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose 295
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 132

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 128

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices were rendered fit:—
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners 1
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV — Overcrowding :—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 15
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 25
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 109
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 6
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 23

5. Housing Act, 1949—Part II—Improvement Grants, etc. :—

	Schemes of private bodies or individ'ls	Schemes of local authority
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted :—		
(a) by private individuals to local authority	2 ...	—
(b) by the local authority to Ministry	2 ...	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	2 ...	Nil
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	2 ...	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	2 ...	Nil
(iii) Number of additional separate dwel- lings to be provided under these ap- proved Schemes	Nil ...	Nil
(c) Number of additional separate dwel- lings actually completed during the year	Nil ...	Nil
(d) Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars)		Nil

HOUSING : The duty of maintaining an inspection of the housing conditions in the district was continued during the year. This important sphere of environmental health work demanded a great deal of time and attention which resulted in improvements in the housing conditions of many families. The repair of houses during the year was not accomplished without difficulty. The scarcity of some essential materials and the economic difficulties of some property owners and the bad workmanship of some builders together hindered the progress of housing repair work.

During and since the last war action under the Public Health and Housing Acts has been restricted to carrying out works of essential repair to sub-standard properties whilst work of real improvement has been limited in extent.

Great scope exists in this district for the re-conditioning and improvement of dwelling-houses, and, in this connection, the

Council has considered applications for monetary assistance under the provisions of Part II of the Housing Act, 1949, very prudently and in a helpful and constructive manner.

A start will have to be made on the proposed survey of dwelling-houses with a view to determining their condition and category for action under the Slum Clearance Scheme.

Two cottages at Standish Hall were represented as unfit for human habitation and remained to be dealt with at the end of the year.

The shortage of dwelling-houses continues, for the number of long-standing applicants re-housed appears always to be offset by a similar number of new applicants added to the waiting list. The number of applicants having an acute housing need is now not so great as it was a year or two ago.

The district is seriously affected by active mining subsidence and evidence of damage resulting therefrom can be seen in surface property throughout the area. This contingency has made more difficult the work of acquiring safe and suitable building sites, nevertheless, the Council has done all in its power to progress as rapidly as possible with post-war house building.

At the end of the year there were 386 applicants for Council housing accommodation and investigation into the circumstances of a number of applicants was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the Committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed.

DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated :—

Cockroach infestation	I whole premises
Verminous & unwholesome conditions...	I whole house
Furniture beetle (woodworm)	I whole house & I room
Wasps' nest	I outbuilding

Spraying and dusting with D.D.T. solution and powder proved to be highly effective.

DISINFECTION

The following premises were disinfected during the year for the reasons stated :—

After Tuberculosis	I room
After Scarlet Fever	I room
After Sickness	I room
After Death	I room

A standing arrangement exists whereby the steam disinfector at Wigan Infirmary could be used for the disinfection of articles requiring the application of steam.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries indicates the nature and extent of work carried out.

TYPE OF PROPERTY						
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All Other (including business premises)	TOTAL	
Number of properties in- spected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of :—						
(a) Notification	Nil	40	3	9	52	
(b) Survey or other- wise	10	278	34	82	404	
Number of pro- perties inspected <i>Major</i>						
which were found to be infested by rats.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
<i>Minor</i>	10	31	1	7	49	
Number of properties in- spected which were found to be seriously infested by mice ...						
	1	6	Nil	4	11 (minor)	
Number of infested pro- perties treated by the Local Authority						
	11	37	1	11	60	

All infestations discovered on Agricultural properties are reported to the County Agricultural Executive Committee with a view to treatment under a service Contract being arranged.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were also systematically treated, as were the refuse disposal sites. Rodent control work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector in strict conformity with the methods advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No charge is made for the disinfection of private dwelling-houses, but business premises are charged for treatments on a time and material basis. No legal proceedings were

taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year. Regular attendances were made at the Workable Area Committee No. 13 and the fullest co-operative working with Contiguous Local Authorities, the Railway Executive and the County Agricultural Executive Committee exists.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS

A variable number of pigsties was in use during the year mostly in connection with Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme—Domestic Pig Keepers. Most are of a reasonable standard of construction and little action by this department was necessary.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The need for new and adequate public conveniences planned on modern lines for both sexes still exists. The holiday season with its almost continuous stream of traffic through the district more than emphasises the urgency of this need. The Council have considered the provision of new public conveniences to meet the needs of the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Continuous pollution takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Efforts have been made to reduce the pollution from private premises, and, where necessary, the cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks was carried out by the Council at the owner's expense. The pollution from the public sewage disposal plant can only be mitigated by the provision of new and extended works to which the Council is giving very serious consideration.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage system serving the majority of premises in the district. Areas at Boars Head—Gidlow—part of Wigan Lower Road and the northern portion of Preston Road are unsewered.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works—at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road — and two sewage farms — at Fairhurst House and Langtree. Three of these are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. The sewerage system for Standish Lower Ground discharges into the trunk sewer of Wigan Corporation.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems was in an advanced state of preparation at the

outbreak of war. Further consideration is now being given to this although progress is delayed due to the unique nature of the problem and because of uncertainty as to the areas of future development as a result of the district being seriously affected throughout by active mining subsidence.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

A Licence to erect or station and use a Moveable Dwelling on land within the Urban District has been granted in three instances. No site licences have been issued. The use of caravans and similar structures for permanent residence should be discouraged as such so called moveable dwellings do not constitute a suitable substitute for a dwelling of traditional construction.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General observations of works chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from manufactory and domestic chimneys takes place.

Co-operation with plant managers with a view to reducing pollution of the atmosphere has continued and warnings have been given following excessive emissions of black smoke. I feel there is considerable room for improvement in the nature of emissions from certain local manufactory chimneys and particularly is this so where boilers are hand-fired. Greater care on the part of stokers of hand-fired boilers would do much to assist in maintaining a cleaner atmosphere.

There are 8 factory and works chimneys within the Urban District, but no Byelaw is in force concerning emissions therefrom.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the district.

SHOPS ADMINISTRATION

There are 136 shops of various kinds within the Urban District. Assistants are employed in 29 shops and young persons in 10 of this number.

During the year 297 shops inspections were made and any offences were dealt with satisfactorily by informal action.

The Sanitary Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the Lancashire County Council as regards certain provisions enforceable by that Authority.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Number and particulars of Factories on Register at 31st December, 1953, as per Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 (revised).

Factories (Mech.)	17
Factories (Non-Mech.)	6
Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction ...	2
Number of Inspections made	32
Number of cases in which defects were found	1
Number of cases in which defects were remedied	1
Number of written notices served	1

There are no out-workers within the Urban District. There is a number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the P.H.A. 1936 within the district.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises registered or licensed under the above Act within the Urban District.

LICENSED PREMISES

Details of Licensed Premises within the district are:—

Public Houses	13	Cinemas	1
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Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices when considering the granting or renewal of licences under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, and it is pleasing to record that in this matter full co-operation exists between the Licensing Justices and the Council. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation were effected at several of the licensed premises during the year.

A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, inter alia, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensees of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A total of 292 inspections of food premises and distributors' vehicles of all kinds was made during the year and the importance of attaining and maintaining a high standard of hygiene in relation to food premises and food handling was stressed as in previous years. A persuasive approach to food traders and the practical solution of problems on their own premises has produced considerable improvements in standards previously accepted.

The unco-operative or neglectful trader was reminded of his obligations under the various food laws and warned of the consequences of not complying. Contraventions were remedied informally.

During the early part of the year a Code of Practice in amplification of the requirements of the Ministry of Food Model Byelaws (Series I) for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air was formulated by the Sanitary Inspector, approved and adopted by the Council, and distributed to all food traders within the Urban District.

Following the distribution of the Code of Practice referred to, a request was received from the food trade for a notice to meet the requirements of Code No. 18 ("A Notice shall be displayed in a prominent position in every shop requesting customers not to handle food-stuffs") in terms similar to the notice re: dogs in food shops recommended in the Ministry of Food Circular 20/51 to be made available to them by the Council. As the problem of the contamination of food as a result of handling by the customer is one which might be discouraged more easily by the Health Authority than the food trader himself, the Council provided a supply of suitable cards for free distribution to food traders for display on their food premises.

All slaughtering of animals for human food continues to be carried out under Government control at Wigan and meat distribution takes place from there.

Five pig carcasses and organs were inspected under the Self-Suppliers of Pigs Scheme—Domestic Pig Keepers. No disease or other abnormality was found.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District. All shop retailers of ice-cream and water-ice are equipped with a modern refrigerator and sell pre-packed products of reputable quality.

The accompanying table shews the result of a survey carried out during the year to ascertain the number of hawkers of food registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, and still in business.

Lancashire County Council
(Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938

SECTION 115. Registration of hawkers of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables and premises

Summarized result of a survey of hawkers and food storage premises registered with the Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council under the provisions of the above Act

Nature of food sold	Number of hawkers Registered under the Act	Number of Regd. hawkers now deceased or since discontinued business in the district			Number of Registered hawkers not traced	Number of Regd. hawkers signifying extant business in the district at 31st December, 1953	
Meat or meat food product	12	...	6	...	Nil	...	6
Fish	6	...	4	...	1	...	1
Fruit and vegetables ...	8	...	4	...	1	...	3
Fish, fruit and vegetables ...	27	...	20	...	3	...	4
Meat, fish and vegetables ...	1	...	1	...	Nil	...	Nil
TOTALS ...	54	...	35	...	5	...	14

Nature of food sold	Number of premises used for storage Registered under the Act	Number of Registered premises discontinued to be used for storage		Number of Registered premises in use as storage accommodation at 31st December, 1953	
Meat or meat food products	1	...	1	...	Nil
Fish, fruit and vegetables	3	...	2	...	1
TOTALS ...	4	...	3	...	1

The following additional information is given in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/54.

Number of Food Premises (by type of business) in District at end of year

Type of Business	Number						
Food factories (canning and bottling)	1
Breweries (beer)	1
Works canteens	4
Cafes and snack bars (including retail sales)	5

<i>(continued)</i>	<i>Type of Business</i>						<i>Number</i>
Bakers and confectioners (including bakehouse and retail/ wholesale sales)	4
Public houses	13
Hawkers food storage premises	1

Shops (classified by type of business): —

Grocer/confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Grocer/confectioner/greengrocer/fruiterer	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocer/confectioner/greengrocer/fruiterer/fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Confectioner/greengrocer/fruiterer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocer/fruiterer/fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocer/fruiterer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish and chip frier/confectioner/greengrocer/fruiterer/fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish and chip frier	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wines and Spirits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice-cream only	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Butcher/grocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butcher/grocer/confectioner/greengrocer/fruiterer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total							102

Twenty-three of the above mixed food premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and twenty-five of the occupiers are registered distributor-dealers of bottled special designated milk.

Number of Food Premises (by type) registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938

<i>Type of business</i>	<i>No. registered at 31-12-53</i>	<i>Number of inspections of registered premises during year</i>
(a) Hawkers food storage premises	1	
(b) Sale of ice-cream	24	35
(c) Preparation of manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat	2	

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Description of Food	Disease or other cause of condemnation	Weight condemned				
		tons	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned tomato pulp (various brands) ...	Decomposition ...	150	10	2	4	0
Eviscerated frozen poultry ...	Severe mould growth ...	1	4	1	0	0
Hind quarter of beef ...	Bone-taint ...		1	2	15	0
Part leg of beef ...	Localised tuberculosis ...				20	0
Sausages (pork and beef) ...	Decomposition ...				24	0
Canned boiled ham ...	Decomposition ...			2	16	7
Canned meat (various brands) ...	Decomposition ...			1	8	4
Canned fish (crab and sardines) ...	Decomposition ...				8	3
Butter ...	Contaminated ...				20	0
Lard ...	Contaminated ...				12	0
Cheese ...	Contaminated ...				12	0
Canned fruit (various kinds) ...	Decomposition ...			3	26	4
Canned evaporated milk ...	Decomposition ...				16	15
Canned tomatoes ...	Decomposition ...					14
Total weight		151	19	1	15	15

The canned tomato pulp is imported by a food canning firm operating in the district and damage during transit or deterioration during storage are the reasons for condemnation. The poultry belonged to the same firm.

All condemned food is disposed of by burying at the Local Authority's refuse disposal sites under the direction and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following details:—

A total of 44 samples was obtained, made up of 30 samples of milk and 14 samples of other commodities.

With the exception of two samples of milk all proved genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of the deficient samples.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

With effect from January, 1940, all slaughtering of food animals has been centralised and carried out under Government

control at Wigan during which time the seven private slaughterhouses in the district have been closed and licences have not been renewed.

With the exception of one slaughterhouse, which, during the year was scheduled by the Ministry of Food for use as an emergency slaughtering point during outbreaks of foot and mouth disease amongst livestock necessitating such action, all are considered unsuitable for further use as slaughterhouses.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 and 1951

Licences to slaughter animals have been issued to five slaughtermen under the above Acts.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are no licensed Pet Shops within the Urban District.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district at 31st December.

Milk Producers in the district	20
including Tuberculin Tested Producers	4
including Producer-Retailers	8
including Producer-Wholesalers	20
Milk Producers outside the district retailing in the district	4

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and 1953—

Number of Dairies on Register	1
Number of Milk Distributors on Register	26

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 & 1950—

Dealers' Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
Supplementary Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953—

Dealers' Licences issued—Pasteurised Milk	5
Dealers' Licences issued—Sterilised Milk	24
Supplementary Licences issued—Pasteurised Milk	2
Supplementary Licences issued—Sterilised Milk	2

Forty inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

The majority of the population of Standish now consume milk in designated form (Tuberculin Tested or pasteurised or Sterilised) brought to them in sealed bottles in a hygienic manner. Such milk is clean and safe to consume by people of all ages.

This situation has largely developed since October, 1949, consequent upon the enforcement of Milk and Dairies legislation then introduced.

The time will come when bottled designated milk will be consumed by all and the sale of loose undesignated milk will no longer be practised.

Milk Sampling :—

During the year 43 samples of milk were taken for the biological test. One sample was found to contain *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and, as a result, one cow was removed and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Twenty-eight samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test of which 23 were satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory.

Two samples of Pasteurised milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests with satisfactory results.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

For the reasons given in my report for 1952, the Council made provision in the Annual Estimates 1953/54 for obtaining extra labour and one additional refuse collection vehicle.

In consequence, the refuse collection service now provides employment for ten full-time men—this includes the foreman.

The vehicle establishment consists of two "Dennis" 10 cubic yard and one "Scammel" 6 cubic yard side-loading refuse collection vehicles. The new "Dennis" vehicle, which was brought into use on the 1st December, 1953, is powered by a diesel engine.

It is expected that this establishment of men and vehicles will be sufficient to adequately cope with the needs of the district so as to effectively provide, except under circumstances beyond our control, for the removal of refuse at weekly intervals over the whole of the district.

Considerable importance is attached to adequate and regular vehicle maintenance and the working of overtime is discouraged.

With few exceptions no charge was made for the removal of trade refuse although shops and business premises had a collection twice a week. It is correct to point out that much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and the revenue so produced is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

The disused sand pits at Langtree Hall Farm used for the purpose of refuse disposal by means of controlled tipping have proved very satisfactory and no complaints have been received. It is anticipated that this present site will provide disposal capacity for several years.

Those of the disused pit shafts which have been filled with refuse are regularly inspected and topped up as subsidence takes place.

Disposal of refuse at Standish Lower Ground was by controlled tipping.

The refuse tips are regularly treated with bait and insecticide as a precaution against rodent and insect infestations.

The emptying of pail closets was carried out weekly.

Some improvements to accommodation were carried out at the Public Cleansing Depot in Grove Lane during the year. These premises can be developed into an admirable and useful Cleansing and Salvage Depot and it is the intention that this be done as soon as possible in order to avoid further dilapidation and to preserve the existing sound structures.

The dustbin provision and ownership scheme has been in existence since 1951 and is operating satisfactorily. During the year 124 dustbins and 47 dustbin lids have been provided at a cost of less than a penny rate to the General Rate Fund.

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent disposal to Messrs. Thames Board Mills Limited under Contract.

The salvage of waste paper is still of prime importance and towards the end of the year the demand for it was increasing.

The workmen are rewarded 20 per cent. of all income from the sale of salvaged materials as an incentive to increase collections.

The income from the sale of salvaged materials during the calendar year was :—

Waste Paper ...	73 tons	11 cwts.	2 qtrs.	...	£547 0 6
Rags and Scrap	8 tons	4 cwts.	0 qtrs.	9lbs. ...	£47 7 0
Totals	...	81 tons	15 cwts.	2 qtrs.	9lbs. ... £594 7 6

The cleansing of non-County roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Surveyor.

